



# ABOUT OUR OFFICE



## OUR MISSION

As part of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Office of Children's Issues employs a staff of 36 who work to assist children and parents victimized by international parental child abduction, and to prevent further abductions from taking place. Parental child abduction is a tragedy that has long-term consequences for both the child and the left-behind parent. When a child is abducted across international borders, the difficulties are compounded for everyone involved. We assist parents as they pursue recovery of their abducted children.



## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

As the Central Authority for the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, this staff is also responsible for carrying out the day-to-day responsibilities required by the Convention. These responsibilities include:

- Helping parents file applications for the return of or access to their children;
- Monitoring progress of Convention cases through resolution;
- Locating abducted children through the help law enforcement;
- Attempting to negotiate a voluntary return or a mutually acceptable resolution;
- Ensuring the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings for return of children;
- Facilitating the provision of legal aid and advice;
- Providing information and support to left-behind parents through the process;
- Cooperating with other Central Authorities with respect to the operation of the Convention and, as far as possible, eliminating any obstacles to its operation; and
- Assisting in the safe return of children; and
- Promoting the Convention both domestically and abroad.

U.S. Department of State  
Office of Children's Issues, SA-29  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

1-202-501-4444 (from outside the United States & Canada)  
1- 888-407-4747 (from the United States & Canada)

[AbductionUSCA@state.gov](mailto:AbductionUSCA@state.gov)

For more information please see our website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

